THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on utensils made of plastics

†1670. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various scientists of the country are demanding an immediate ban on utensils made of plastic;

(b) whether in view of suggestions of scientists and its ill-effect on infants, Government are contemplating to take a decision on it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government has not received any demand from scientists for banning utensils made of plastics.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Lifting distribution curbs on fertilizers

1671. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to lift all kinds of distribution curbs on all fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these curbs would be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Currently, urea is the only fertilizer which is under distribution control of the Government of India. The distribution of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been decontrolled since 25.8.1992. The Government's intention is to ultimately decontrol all fertilizers including urea after taking into account its fiscal capacity so as to achieve an optimum ratio in the consumption of different types of nutrients on the one

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

hand and making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price on the other. However, the time frame for decontrol and deregulation of distribution of urea is not firmed up as yet.

Formation of Eastern Gas Grid/LNG terminal

1672. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibilities of forming an Eastern Gas Grid or a LNG terminal to cater to the need of feedstock for production of urea in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the present status of the same and whether Durgapur and Haldia plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation would be rehabilitated, by using LNG as feedstock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Core Group to explore the possibility of import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Core Group, the proposal for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers is being processed by the Government.

The revamp of Haldia Project of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC) has not been found to be techno- economically viable. Accordingly, it has been decided to close/hive off the Haldia Project. The rehabilitation of Durgapur unit is dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government and the sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Purchase of DAP by NFL

1673. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Ltd. had signed a contract on 20th June, 1995 to purchase one lakh MT of DAP with a foreign company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that second consignment was sold on high sea;